

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE, ON
MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2019, AT 7.00 P.M.**

Councillors present: Councillor Major J Sibbald (Town Mayor)
Councillors I R Cameron, A Dunford,
J Goodman, J T Hannaby, A C Menzies, J E Nunn-Price,
I L Sheldon, C Walters and C H Wills-Wright.

Others present: Eighteen members of the public.

Clerk: W P Falkenau.

The meeting stood in a minute's silence in memory of Police Constable Andrew Harper, who was killed whilst on duty and whose funeral was held in Oxford that day.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Crawford, Curley, Duveen, Gilhome, Johnson and O'Leary.

Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests

None.

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 July and 2 September 2019

The minutes were approved and signed.

36. Statements and questions from the public

None.

37. Matters arising from the Council meeting held on 29 July and 2 September 2019

Item 33 – Pride in Wantage

A Pride in Wantage Award had been presented to Mr John Winch on 10 October 2019.

Item 35 – Honorary Freedom of the Town

The certificate recording the Freedom of the Town to Canon Peter Turbitt was to be presented to him during November.

38. Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 29 July, 19 August, 2 and 23 September and 7 October 2019

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Major Sibbald
SECONDED BY Councillor Menzies
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted.

39. Minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 16 September 2019

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Hannaby
SECONDED BY Councillor Sheldon
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted.

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40. Minutes of the Promotion, Communications and Events Committee meeting held on 7 October 2019

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Walters
SECONDED BY Councillor Wills-Wright
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted.

41. Minutes of the Policy, Management and Finance meeting held on 30 September 2019

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Sheldon
SECONDED BY Councillor Hannaby
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted.

42. Proposition by Councillor Hannaby

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Hannaby
SECONDED BY Councillor Dunford
IT WAS MOVED that the new policy introduced by the District Council now restricts Festival Grants to a three-year period. This cuts off continuation of vital funds which enable, for example the Wantage Dickensian Evening to continue. This much valued event not only involves our town residents, but has a wider appeal in the surrounding area. In addition to its social value it also has an economic benefit to local businesses. To secure the future of the Dickensian Evening the Council wishes to show its support for this event by increasing the annual grant from £500 to £1,500, which was the level of total grant which was previously achieved.

In a vote the proposition was approved nine in favour, none against.

43. To note External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018/19 and Notice of Conclusion of Annual Audit

The Notice of Conclusion of Order had been received from Moore Auditors. The auditors had not raised any issues to be considered by the Council.

44. District and County Councillors' reports

County and District Councillors' reports

Councillor Hannaby agreed to forward to the Council a written report on District and County Council matters. **Action: Hannaby**

45. Town Mayor's communications

The Town Mayor advised that a report, covering recent activities, would be available on the Town Council's website.

The meeting closed at 7.16 p.m.

WPF/ME